

Refugee Advisory Board Meeting
January 28, 2016
140 East 300 South, SLC

Attendees: Alexx Goeller, Michelle Conley, Asha Parekh, Ze Min Xiao, Aden Batar, Liz Bioteau, Steve Pluim, Patrick Poulin, Casey Cameron, Gerald Brown, Steve Leyba, Ryan Van Fleet, Nicholas Street, Tyler Kotter, Jared Garcia, Brian Redd, Lina Smith, Rick Foster, Jackie Rader

ACTION ITEMS

Workforce Services:

- **Create awareness training for Public Safety Officials to present at Governor's public safety summit in St. George in May**
- **Make sure SBI has all meeting dates on their calendar**
- **findings/concerns**
- **Setup meeting with local refugees to talk with SBI before next Advisory Board meeting**
 - o **Commissioner Squires want to attend**
- **SBI meeting with Jon Pierpont, post-legislative session**
- **Advisory Board Membership → follow up on suggested names for consideration**
- **Setup tour like Rep. Ray for SBI**
- **Upcoming Agenda Items:**
 - o **Housing update in February**
 - o **Update from Nick Street (SBI) in February or March on outreach efforts and initial**
 - o **Medicaid expansion**
 - o **School aging out policy → send letter to Board of Education (Casey)**
 - o **School placement issues**

Public Safety:

- **Reach out to Martin Bates at Granite School District → outreach to school districts**
- **Update Advisory Board in February on initial findings (Nick Street)**

Welcome – Casey Cameron

- **Excuse Jon Pierpont due to legislative meetings**
- **Visitors from Dept. of Public Safety**
- **December minutes**
 - o **No quorum → minutes not approved**

New employment committee chair → Steve Pluim

- **President of staffing firm, Talent Team**
- **Employment subcommittee initiatives are:**
 - o **Upward job mobility**
 - o **Employer education**

- 5 areas of emphasis:
 - Barriers
 - Coordinate resources
 - Job skill development
 - Job opportunity development
 - Employer education

Governor's Initiative – Maj. Brian Redd

- Director of State Bureau of Investigation (SBI)
- Team:
 - Lt. Jared Garcia, major crimes
 - Capt. Tyler Kotter, major crimes
 - Nick Street, refugee outreach agent
 - Ryan Van Fleet, major crimes (Nick's supervisor)
- Governor tasked Dept. of Public Safety with reviewing vetting process → found that not much more at the state level can be done
 - Can do better at outreach with refugee community
 - Help integrate, understand laws and that law enforcement is trustworthy
 - Help with community issues
- Nick has been appointed as a refugee outreach coordinator in the last 2 weeks
- DPS met earlier today with local law enforcement for the first time
- Agencies interested in working and partnering with SBI
- Attended Providers meeting, meeting with resettlement agencies & with law enforcement
 - Getting a sense of who the players are
- Action Items:
 - Governor's public safety summit in St George
 - Talk about public safety issues
 - Put together an awareness training for public safety officials
 - Work with resettlement agencies on cultural awareness
 - Springboard to public safety community
 - Committed to meet with every refugee that comes in to have an initial positive interaction
 - Orientations, etc.
- Hear frequently that refugees need an understanding of the rules and laws of the land, youth and adults → understanding both sides of the legal system
- Strategy may include school districts as well
 - Can do some outreach to districts in conjunction with local law enforcement (school resource officers)
 - Reach out to Martin Bates, Granite School District
 - About 10,000 refugee kids
 - Create a relationship with him

- Challenge is limited resources and spending time most effectively, where can SBI be used most effectively
- Plan to attend Advisory Board every month
 - o Will meet with law enforcement at least quarterly
 - o Other meetings as needed
- Update from Nick in February or March → outreach efforts, initial findings or concerns
- Haven't heard from any refugees yet → would like to have an opportunity to talk to some refugees and get their perspective
- IRC has a February cultural orientation → go to Nick, cc the SBI team
- Meeting the community leaders → next organized meeting, Commissioner Squires wants to attend (February action item)
 - o Gerald the contact
- Have both meetings before next board meeting → report back on efforts
- Set up meeting with Jon Pierpont, post-legislative session, with SBI group

At a good point to engage on both sides, some of the dust has settled
 Tweeted about meeting earlier today → picked up by KSL

Advisory Board Membership

- Gerald working with governor's office in getting updates
- Soliciting ideas for membership on the board
 - o Have not heard any suggestions
 - o One last call out
 - Talk to Gerald or Casey
- In final stages of getting Board finalized
- Missing heads of state agencies → Human Services, Health, State, Education
 - o Check in with Amelia on her commitment
 - o Human Services → DCFS (Angela Robbins – hasn't attended regularly)
 - o Office of Education or local school district → Martin Bates?
 - o Get someone from higher up involved (Board of Education)
- Local law enforcement → city or county; large refugee population
 - o Brian can give some recommendations
 - o Chief's association could appoint someone, may not be the best way
- Other partners: Social Security office, USCIS
- HACSL coordinates with city → Liz Bioteau
- Cheryl Bradford → over governor's boards and commissions
 - o Governor interested in diversity and short tenures on boards
 - o 2 or 3 names for consideration
 - o Meeting in February → need to get all up to governor for consideration before then
- Refugee members → send names to Gerald
- Goal is to have a robust dialogue and bring in new folks
- Any representatives from municipalities here?

- County is represented; no one from Salt Lake City
 - City looking at hiring new refugee representative → just closed application
 - Jon is going to meet with Mayor Biskupski soon → want to make sure that the refugee position remains and the volunteer program

Representative Ray Tour

- House Chair of social services subcommittee
- Interested in learning more about refugees
- Represents 13th district
- Requested time to learn more about refugees → will come up during legislative session
- Toured the Refugee Education & Training Center (RETC), Humanitarian Center & home visit with a refugee family from IRC
- Recap – Steve Leyba
 - Home Visit with Sudanese family – Patrick Poulin, IRC
 - Went to visit a Sudanese family; have been in Utah about a year
 - Large family
 - Engaging exchange
 - Talked about history of how they fled, family members threatened, imprisoned & tortured; went to Egypt for a while
 - Settling here in the U.S.
 - Have two children going to job corps (Rep. Ray is from Clearfield – nice tie in)
 - Adult son had pretty good English → good exchange with Rep. Ray
 - Sense that these are human beings; they want to do well
 - It's a struggle to do well
 - Had to communicate through an interpreter → new to Rep. Ray
 - Very impressed with the family
 - Feedback: home visit was so informative that Ray wants to hold a subcommittee meeting at RETC
 - Refugee Education & Training Center (RETC) – Asha Parekh
 - Took Rep. Ray around to see the types of programs that RETC hosts
 - Walked into a class where customers were working on resumes
 - Showed video about RETC to have a broad picture
 - Met with partners at the Microbusiness Connection Center
 - Talked about refugee businesses
 - Went through the building that will be part of phase 2 – kitchen & Head Start
 - Took through composites program with Salt Lake Community College partner → expanding to train refugees in this program
 - Overview of what RETC does
 - Humanitarian Center – Gerald Brown
 - Offers ESL classes and work area for work experience
 - Goal is to get people jobs

- Went to 2 classes → students got up and told him what the program meant to them = very compelling
 - Saw the work area where they sort clothes
 - Saw a covered refugee woman driving a forklift
 - Went to conference room and Troy (Humanitarian Center manager) went over the results of the program → very good
 - Job placement rate of 60% plus and ESL level gains are very good
- Jon Pierpont was pleased with the amount of interest Rep. Ray had
- Happy to facilitate something similar for SBI or other organizations
 - Value in providing more education and understanding to as many people as possible
 - SBI interested in a tour → work with Sherrie and include all
- Humanitarian Center is a partnership with the LDS church – Rick Foster
 - Contract with them
 - Deseret Industries training program → get 30 million pounds of clothes/year; have refugee workers that sort into various 100 lb bales that LDS sends out internationally for humanitarian aid
 - Provides a variety of job skills
 - 4 hours/day of work
 - ESL classes for 4 hours/day
 - Paid to be in class
 - On job site; immersive; with peers
 - Nationally recognized program for ESL
 - Job coach trainers to help identify jobs for folks to transition to
 - How to get a job with a better working wage
 - 1 year program
 - Subsidized wage → livable wage
 - 150 people /year
 - Waiting list for program
 - Immigrants and refugees (75 bishop-referred, 75 from partner agencies)
 - Great outcomes from the program
 - Friendly, safe environment → everyone knows that the goal is to help refugees
 - Employment & retention outcomes are outstanding
 - AAU, CCS, IRC & DWS are all partners in this project

Refugee Services Fund – Gerald Brown

- Report will be given on a quarterly basis
- First one today
- Currently have about \$35,000 in the fund
- World Refugee Day money is earmarked → grant money
- Earmarked donations and general donations
 - Women's services
 - Youth

- Sewing
- Most money is used for rental assistance
- Requests go to Gerald, if there is no other way to fund
 - Less than \$1,000 = consult with Casey who ultimately approves or denies
 - Over \$1,000 = comes to Advisory Board (has happened only a few times)
- Send any suggestions on how to use the fund to Gerald

Meeting Schedule – Casey Cameron

- Add Nick & SBI to appointment calendars for advisory board
- Any agenda items → let Jackie know (will solicit about a week in advance)

Agenda Items:

- Would like to set agenda items ahead of time
- Thinking of:
 - Ask at each meeting if there are topics you want to discuss at the next meeting
- Housing to report next month
 - Hoping to have committee meeting before advisory board
 - Small update on where the committee is at
 - Housing Authority of the County of Salt Lake (HACSL) is doing community plan → might be helpful to have board weigh-in on the plan; public hearing (Janice Kimball)
 - Have a draft available → Patrick can send to Jackie
 - Patrick will draft some ideas
 - Liz will look into public comment period → may close after February meeting
 - Put Bud Bailey project together; support HACSL with these projects
 - Annual update to 5 year plan → lots of recommendations on yearly focus
 - HUD requirement (Salt Lake City does the same thing)
 - Reach out to Mayor Biskupski regarding housing → send thoughts to Jon (can add to his list of items to talk to her about)
- Medicaid expansion
 - Immunization issues at 12 months and green card issues
- School policy that students are put in a grade based on their age not their education level (i.e. 17 year old goes into 11th grade, even though they may have a 4th grade education level)
 - Youth committee working on this
 - Made some recommendations for State Board of Education
 - CMAC was going to push forward → was dissolved last month
 - Everything is ready to go in a letter → advisory board to send up to State Board of Education
 - Set up meeting with Sid → Ze to send letter to Casey
 - Per people funding policy issue → can't fund people over age 18
 - 2 tied issues: placed in the wrong grade level (need remedial type classes) but also need to get aging out policy changed
 - Catch up on those that are already placed

- Stop it from continuing to be a problem with new arrivals
- Expansion of Tumaini program → some states have a year-long newcomer academy
 - Only Granite students
 - Used to be a year-long program → funding was cut
- Funding issue with remedial classes; policy issue with aging out of school
- Dr. Bates cut Tumaini because afraid of segregation (reflect negatively on funding)
- Could Promise SSL help out?
- Follow up – Patrick's issue with youth school placement

Adjourn

Next Meeting: February 25, 2016